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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
CASTLE WARD

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF
THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
AND
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR AND
CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

For 1957

I
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CASTLE WARD

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
and CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT
1957

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health - MADGE HOPPER, M.B., B.S., B.HY., D.P.H.

Health Housing Meat	}	Chief Inspector - E. W. STRACHAN, M.R.SAN.I., M.A.P.H.I.
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Health Meat	}	Inspector Additional - - - - - J. TAYLOR, M.A.P.H.I.
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Health Meat	}	Inspector Additional - - - - - R. HARDY, M.A.P.H.I.
----------------	---	--

Clerk Typist - - - - - Miss D. BELL

Clerk Typist (Assistant) - - - - - Miss J. ELWICK

Rodent Operator - - - - - W. E. JOBSON

Offices - - - - - COUNCIL OFFICES, PONTELAND

Telephone - - - - - PONTELAND 2372-6

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1957.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1957.

As in the previous years, the population of the rural district continued to increase, in 1957 by 1,220, chiefly in the Darras Hall, Melton Park and Brunton Park districts.

The vital statistics of the year conformed to the national figures and showed little significant change. The number of births increased by 28, and the number of deaths decreased by 20

The infant mortality rate, though slightly higher than in the previous year, again showed no infant death due to an infective cause. Deaths from malignant disease increased very slightly to 34, from 30, in 1956, but were much below the total of 48, in 1955. A rise in the number of deaths from Malignant Disease of the Stomach took place from 3, in 1956, to 8, in 1957 and a slight rise from those of Malignant Disease of the Lung from 5, in 1956, to 7, in 1957.

It is pleasing to report that no death from any form of Tuberculosis was registered during the year, probably for the first time in the history of the rural district. The incidence of Tuberculosis also declined from 13 cases notified in 1956, to 8, in 1957. Points worthy of note were that inward transfers of the disease exceeded new notifications and that in the last six years no less than 55 cases have been inwardly transferred. These patients have received, and will continue to receive, general and special care as required.

Notifications of infectious fevers increased considerably to a total of 416 from 136, in 1956. This was due almost entirely to an outbreak of Measles especially in the early months of the year. Altogether a total of 379 cases of Measles was notified during the year. There was a slight rise in the incidence of Scarlet Fever. The incidence of Whooping Cough, Dysentery and Food Poisoning showed a very welcome decline. An outbreak of Influenza occurred in the later months of the year, but was not so severe as in some larger neighbouring districts. Eight cases of Virus or Influenzal Pneumonia were notified, compared with 7 in the previous year.

The final implementation of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Order, 1950, took place during the year. Without unduly dilating on the blessings and amenities of a pure and piped water supply to two-thirds of the district, which, until a few years ago was dependent on various sources, some of them at times doubtful and uncertain, this should rank as one of the most important single accomplishments of recent years.

The year 1957 also showed the commencement of the curtain falling on the stage of unfit and substandard houses. The 1946-1950 Rural Housing Survey showed 320 houses in Category 4 and 424 in Category 5. At the end of 1957 only 7 houses in Category 4 remained to be dealt with. Details of action taken, both formal and informal, are contained in the report and make interesting reading. This is to say the least of it, no mean achievement by the Council and their officials, and of lasting effect to the health and welfare of the community in general. As the work of dealing with unfit and substandard houses recedes, other problems, such as atmospheric pollution under the Clean Air Act and care of the aged as the span of life increases, come to the fore.

The appropriate Table of the Chief Public Health Inspector's Report showed rapid increase in another field of public health, that of Meat Inspection.

My thanks are due to all members of the staff of the Department and particularly to Mr. E. W. Strachan, the Chief Public Health Inspector, for their consistent and active work throughout the year and to the Clerk and other Officers of the Council for their co-operation and help.

Finally, I am most grateful to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Sanitary Works Committee for the support and encouragement they have given me throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

M. HOPPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

I—VITAL STATISTICS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT

POPULATOIN

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population was 18,690 an increase of 1,220 on that of the previous year. The increase of population was mainly in the Darras Hall, Melton and Brunton Park districts.

BIRTHS

The total number of births during the year was 293, 155 being male and 138 female. The figures for 1956 were 265 total births, 145 of them male and 120 female. The number of illegitimate births was 6 in both years.

The birth rate (corrected for age and sex distribution) for the rural district was 16.3 per 1,000 population and that for the country was 16.1

The number of still births reduced to 4 from 6, in 1956. The still birth rate for the district was 13.9 per 1,000 live and still births and that for the country was 22.4.

DEATHS

A total of 322 deaths, 169 male and 153 female, was registered during the year, a decrease of 20 on those registered the previous year. The decrease was chiefly in deaths of females.

The number of deaths of long-term residents in Hospitals and Institutions of the district was 143 and if these were deducted from the total number of deaths registered, the number of deaths of residents was 179, the same figure as in 1956.

The total death rate (corrected for age and sex distribution) for the rural district was 10.1 per 1,000 population compared with the rate of 11.5 for England and Wales.

In 1956 the comparative rates were 12.0 per 1,000 population for this district and 11.7 for the country.

INFANT MORTALITY

Six deaths of infants under one year of age were registered, four of them being neo-natal ones, i.e., occurring during the first month of life and two in the later months of the first year.

In 1956, 4 deaths of infants under one year were registered, all occurring within the first month of life.

Three of the 6 deaths in 1957 were due to congenital malformations, two to prematurity and one to haemolytic disease of the newborn. No death was attributable to an infective cause.

This conforms to the general pattern, the virtual elimination of infection as a cause of infant deaths, due, largely, to the antibiotic and sulphonamide drugs and the high standard of infant care, but there remain the hardcore of deaths due to prematurity and congenital malformations. This requires further careful research and continued effort. The infant mortality rate for the rural district was 20.4 and that for the country 23.0 per 1,000 live births.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

As in the previous year, one death from maternal cause was registered. The maternal mortality rate for the year was 3.1 per 1,000 related births and that for the country was 0.47.

INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH

The largest group of deaths was, of course, due to "Heart and Circulatory Disease." Grouped together these numbered 146, of which 75 were deaths of long-term hospital patients.

Seventy-one in this classification were deaths of residents of the district, the same figure as in the previous year. The comparative figure in 1956 of residents in hospitals was 82.

Deaths classified as due to "Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System" numbered 74 in total, 48 being of residents in the hospitals. In 1956, the total was 79, including 46 of residents in the hospitals.

There was little change in any of these groups.

In the year before, deaths from malignant disease dropped to a total of 30 from 48, in 1955. In 1957 the total number was 34, two being of residents of the hospitals, as in the previous year.

The increase was mainly in those classified as "Malignant Neoplasm of the Stomach" which rose to 8 from 3, in 1956.

A slight rise in the number of deaths from malignant disease of the "Lungs and Bronchus" was noted from 5, in 1956 to 7, in 1957.

Apart from this the figures showed little change.

No death from Leukaemia was registered.

The number of deaths from respiratory diseases also showed little variation, the number of deaths of residents in this group being 11 and that of residents in the hospitals, 9. In the previous year, the comparative figures were 11 of residents and 13, of hospital long-term patients.

There was one death from Influenza in both years.

One death from "Meningococcal Infection" was registered in 1957.

Deaths due to motor vehicle accidents, numbered 3, of which one was institutional, compared with 4 in the previous year.

The number of deaths from all accidents other than motor vehicle ones rose sharply to a total of 11 from 6, in 1956 and 12, in 1955.

Three of the deaths were due to flying accidents, three to drowning in the sea and one to drowning in a local burn.

Four deaths were due to falls, three of them being of hospital residents, and all were of aged people, ranging from 82 to 91 years. Last year, there were 6 deaths attributable to falls. In 1957, there were 2 deaths due to suicide as in the previous year.

II—TUBERCULOSIS

No death from Tuberculosis (all forms) was registered during the year. In the previous years, 4 deaths in 1956 and 7 deaths in 1955 from pulmonary tuberculosis had been registered.

The death rate for England and Wales in 1957 was 0.107 per 1,000 population.

The incidence of the disease which had risen in 1956 to 11 notified cases of pulmonary tubercle showed a very welcome decline to 5 cases (2 male and 3 female) notified in 1957. The decrease was entirely in the older age groups, over 35 years, in males. There was one notified case of pulmonary tuberculosis in a child of 5 to 15 years of age.

Three cases of non-pulmonary tubercle were notified in 1957, one male and 2 female. The incidence of tuberculosis (all forms) was 8 cases notified in 1957, compared with 13 in 1956.

The number of inward transfers to the district was again considerable. Eleven cases of pulmonary tuberculosis previously notified elsewhere came to reside in the district during the year, chiefly in the new housing estates. In the previous year there were 13 such cases.

Since 1952, a total of 55 cases of tuberculosis have been inwardly transferred to the district. In previous years, the number of new cases notified in the course of the year has approximated the number of inward transfers, but in 1957 the number of transfers was greater than the number of primary notifications.

The drop in mortality and decline in incidence was in keeping with the general trend throughout the country and of the last few years and is extremely encouraging and urges continued effort in the fields of better housing and environment.

Patients attend the Chest Clinic, City Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, under the care of the Senior Chest Physician and are admitted to the various sanatoria of the region or Walkergate Hospital within a very short time of diagnosis. Surveillance of contacts and those at risk is also undertaken at the Chest Clinic and B.C.G. vaccinations given in suitable cases with the parents' consent.

The Mass Radiography Unit is based at the Newcastle General Hospital and is accessible to all parts of the district.

III—GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

A total of 416 cases of acute infectious diseases was notified during the year, compared with 136, in 1956 and 323, in 1955.

MEASLES

There was a considerable outbreak of Measles during the months of February and March. Altogether during the year, a total of 379 cases was notified and 300 of them occurred during the two months. The first week in March was the peak period when 78 cases were notified. Children in all parts of the district were affected. Fortunately, the disease was mild in type and few complications arose.

In the previous year only 24 cases were notified, so the usual pattern of biannual increase again took place as so many children were susceptible.

A few cases were notified until August but after that no further case occurred.

SCARLET FEVER

Twelve cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year compared with 7, in 1956. They were all of a mild type.

WHOOPIING COUGH

The incidence of Whooping Cough which had risen slightly the previous year, dropped to a total of 20 cases from 43, in 1956. The value of immunisation against Whooping Cough is being realised and most parents are having their children, especially babies, protected by immunisation and there certainly is a progressive drop in incidence all round.

DYSENTERY

Cases of Sonne Dysentery continued to occur at intervals, 15 cases being notified during the year compared with 40, in 1956. In December, 6 cases occurred in a Hospital in the district. Consultations took place with the Deputy Medical Superintendent and Chief Male Nurse and arrangements made for the isolation and control of patients and contacts.

No further case occurred, a very good result in view of the difficulty in dealing with low-grade mental defectives.

VIRUS AND INFLUENZAL PNEUMONIA

Eight cases were notified in 1957 and 7, in 1956. The cases occurred during the months of February and October.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS

No case was notified during the year as in 1956. There were two cases notified in 1955.

A contact of a case in the midlands was kept under surveillance for the requisite period.

DIPHThERIA

No case was notified for the tenth year in succession.

FOOD POISONING

There had been two cases notified in 1956 but in 1957 no case was notified.

INFLUENZA

As in previous winters, in accordance with the Ministry of Health's request, the general practitioners of the district co-operated in keeping watch for signs of any outbreaks of Influenza as distinct from the common cold and its complications.

Increased prevalence of Influenza occurred in September and continued through October, gradually abating after that.

The prevalence was not so severe as in neighbouring larger authorities. The illness had a sudden onset and in severer cases, marked constitutional symptoms and varying degrees of upper respiratory infection. It conformed to that generally prevalent at the time and due to Type A Virus. Complications were few but four cases of Influenzal Pneumonia were notified in October. One death from Influenza was registered.

Cases of acute infectious fevers requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, as required.

IV—NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 AMENDMENT ACT, 1951

Burial or Cremation of the Dead—Section 50.

No action was necessary under this section.

Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in need of Care and Attention—Section 47.

Several cases were investigated under this section but no formal action proved necessary.

V—HOUSING

As in previous years the building of new houses proceeded at a reasonably good rate. Although no new council houses were built, a total of 282 were erected by private owners.

The position in relation to the number of houses found to be sub-standard in accordance with the 1946-50 Rural Housing Survey is most satisfactory, only seven houses remain on which action under the Housing Acts will be taken during the following year.

It is pleasing to note that the policy of the Council in operating the 1949-52 Housing Act has resulted in the improvement of a considerable number of houses which would possibly have otherwise deteriorated and eventually become the subject of action under the Housing Acts.

The provision of satisfactory housing with all modern facilities is and always will be of great importance in the field of public health.

During the year one case of gross overcrowding was, with the assistance of the County Welfare Authority, satisfactorily rectified.

VI—FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Details of inspections of food premises in the district numbering 396 are contained in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

A steady improvement in the general standard of hygiene in food establishments has taken place, due partially to a better understanding of what is required and to constant attention given by your officers.

The practice of informal talks on food handling and hygiene with the staff on the premises, as in previous years, continued to work satisfactorily.

VII—WATER SUPPLY

The completion of the last Phase of the implementation of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Order 1950 took place in the early part of the year. The details have been provided by the Engineer and Surveyor and other detailed reports on Water Supplies are set out on pages 28.

VIII—ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Much has been said in recent months through the medium of the press, radio and technical journals of the Clean Air Act, 1956, the introduction of which was long overdue.

The problems connected with contamination of the air do not generally affect this rural district to any large extent when compared with the more built up and industrial areas. This should not, however, indicate a feeling of complacency, on the contrary, much remains to be done in the control of pollution, especially in the eastern coal mining part of the district. The pit spoil banks still provide a possible source of pollution which although not visible is never-the-less present in the atmosphere.

On the domestic side of the picture, until all appliances for heating or cooking are suitably designed for the burning of those fuels listed in the Building Byelaws approved by the Council, pollution of the atmosphere will unfortunately continue.

IX—WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE

The Annual Meeting of the Castle Ward Rural District Old People's Welfare Committee was held in June. There are now four well attended "Over Sixty Clubs" at Hazlerigg, Dinnington, Heddon-on-the-Wall and Ponteland. The Ponteland W.V.S. have organised a visiting rota to old people who are patients in the Ponteland Hospital, and once a month arrange and provide a tea party for them. These voluntary organisations are doing excellent work and are undoubtedly providing an interest for the elderly.

The activities of the Northumberland Rural Old People's Voluntary Welfare Committee and the untiring efforts of its Secretary and assistant are greatly appreciated.

HEALTH EDUCATION

From time to time talks to groups of people are given by members of the staff of the Department on health topics of the day.

X—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE DISTRICT

The details under this section have been supplied in the report of Mr. E. W. Strachan, Chief Public Health Inspector.

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

(a) HOSPITALS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

- (i) Birney Hill Convalescent Hospital.
- (ii) Ponteland Hospital.
- (iii) St. Mary's Hospital, Stannington.
- (iv) Thomas Knight Memorial Hospital, Children's Sanatorium, Stannington.
- (v) Burnholme, Stannington, for mental defectives attached to the Northgate Hospital, Morpeth.

(b) LOCAL AUTHORITY HOMES.

- (i) Cottage Homes, Ponteland (Newcastle Corporation).
- (ii) Mona Taylor Maternity Home, Stannington (Northumberland County Council).
- (iii) Thomas Taylor Homes, Stannington (for aged people) (Northumberland County Council)

(c) NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL.

Services 3, 4, 5 and 6 and the care of the buildings under service 2 are administered by the South Area Health Sub-Committee of the Northumberland County Council.

1. DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY.

There are six nurse/midwives practising in the district.

- (1) Nurse Simpson, 4, Cheviot View, Brunswick Village.
- (2) Nurse Cockburn, The Bungalow, Dinnington Village.
- (3) Nurse Brown, 5, The Green, Ponteland.
- (4) Nurse Gardiner, 26, The Oval, Stamfordham.
- (5) Nurse Larney, Wooler Cottage, Stannington.
- (6) Nurse Edmundson, 33, The Fairway, Brunton Park.

2. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Nine Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are situated in the district one at each of the following places :—

Dinnington Village, Brunswick Village, Brunton Park, Hazlerigg, Ponteland, Stamfordham, Stannington Village, Stannington Settlement and Heddon-on-the-Wall.

Sessions are held for babies, children up to five years and for expectant mothers as well as immunisation sessions.

3. AMBULANCE SERVICE.

Wideopen Depot which is situated a few hundred yards beyond the eastern boundary of the rural district is the largest depot in the County and covers the eastern part of Castle Ward, Gosforth and Longbenton Urban districts. All messages are received from the whole of the southern part of the County from 4 p.m. to 8 a.m. on weekdays, from noon on Saturdays to 8 a.m. on Mondays and relayed to the respective stations.

Throckley depot covers the southern and western parts of the rural district and ambulances of the Morpeth depot the northern part.

4. VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation against Diphtheria is carried out at the various Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in the district, by the general practitioners and, at intervals, at the schools.

The percentage of children receiving immunisation against the disease, which had increased in the previous year, was reasonably kept up during 1957.

Altogether 90% (90%) of all children up to 15 years of age had been immunised at some time during their lives including 78% (73%) of children 0—4 years and 98% (98%) of children 5—14 years. The numbers in brackets indicate the figures for the previous year.

The Immunity Index which gives the number of children immunised during the last five years showed 18% (24%) children under 1 year, 95% (89%) children 1—4 years and 81% (92%) children 5—14 years, giving a total Immunity Index of 80% (84%).

Some immunisations were done with a single antigen and others combined with other antigens.

From April onwards throughout the year, the vaccination programme against poliomyelitis was in progress and immunisation against diphtheria was probably in some cases postponed.

Whooping Cough Prophylaxis.

A total of 299 children received prophylaxis against Whooping Cough mainly with the combined or triple antigen, compared with 244 in 1956 and 140, in 1955 and 84, in 1954.

As already mentioned earlier in the report, the gradual increase in this protection seems to be having its result in a lesser incidence of the disease.

Tetanus.

Immunisation with the triple antigen which includes tetanus increased to a total of 50 children being done during the year compared with 24, in 1956.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

There were 147 (110) primary vaccinations against Smallpox in the course of the year and 33 (24) re-vaccinations. There was a slight increase in the numbers vaccinated but a large proportion of the population remain at risk should a case of Smallpox arise, which in these days of rapid travel and movement is not improbable. Continued efforts are required to persuade parents to have their children vaccinated.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

As more vaccine became available, vaccination against Poliomyelitis increased its pace from April onwards. At December 31st, 1957, 833 registered children up to 15 years of age had received two injections either at Clinics or by the family doctor. Registration continued at a high level.

5. HOME HELP SERVICE.

A total of 90 persons received the service of a home help for varying periods compared with a total of 78 in 1956.

The cases included 50 (44) aged and infirm people, 22 (16) of acute illness, 15 (11) Confinements and 3 (1) blind persons.

With the increase in population, the number of persons using this service continues to slightly increase.

6. CARE AND AFTER-CARE.

Regular three-monthly meetings were held by the Gosforth and Castle Ward After-Care Sub-Committee and necessitous cases of tuberculosis, cardiac and chest diseases received help with clothing, food, travelling expenses of relatives to hospitals, etc. Coincident with the decline in incidence of tuberculosis, this Sub-Committee extended its scope to include cases of cardiac and other chest diseases in need of help.

7. NURSING CARE COMMITTEES.

There are three Nursing Care Committees in the district. They are Blagdon and Stannington, Ponteland and Stamfordham. The needs of the Dinnington district are looked after by the Gosforth and Castle Ward Care and After-Care Sub-Committee.

These Nursing Care Committees are voluntary organisations and the members occasionally visit sick people and supply articles of nursing equipment as they are required. If necessary, larger items are supplied by the South Area Health Sub-Committee. The district Nurse keeps a supply of smaller articles of equipment at her house for loan to suitable cases.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

PARTICULARS OF DISTRICT :

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	82,846
Registrar General's estimated population	..	..	..	..	..	18,690
Number of habitable houses	..	..	..	..	..	5,872
Sum represented by penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	£1,025
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	£248,864

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS :

	Males	Females	Total
Live births (leg.)	151	136	287
Live births (illeg.)	4	2	6
Still births	2	2	4
Deaths	169	153	322
Birth rate per 1,000 population	..	..	16.3
Still births per 1,000 live and still births	13.9
Death Rate	10.1

DEATHS FROM PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, ABORTION	..	1
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Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	..	3.1
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DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR :

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	20.4
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CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE CASTLE WARD AREA, 1957.

					Males	Females	Total	Institutional Deaths
ALL CAUSES	..	..	..	..	169	153	322	143
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	..	..	..	..	1	—	1	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	..	1	—	1	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	..	4	4	8	—
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	7	—	7	(1)
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..	—	4	4	(1)
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
14. Other malignant & Lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	10	5	15	(2)
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	..	..	..	..	—	3	3	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	36	38	74	(48)
18. Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	21	11	32	(8)
19. Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	5	4	9	(2)
20. Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	50	46	96	(62)
21. Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	6	3	9	(3)
22. Influenza	..	..	..	..	1	—	1	—
23. Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	6	5	11	(5)
24. Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	3	4	7	(3)
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	1	—	1	(1)
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	—
27. Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	(2)
28. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	—	1	1	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	1	—	1	(1)
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	..	—	1	1	—
31. Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	6	13	19	—
33. Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	(1)
34. All other accidents	..	..	..	..	7	4	11	(3)
35. Suicide..	..	..	..	..	—	2	2	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	..	—	—	—	—

(Figures in brackets indicate Hospital deaths).

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES (per 1,000 Population).

Births					Deaths		
		Castle Ward	England & Wales		Castle Ward	England & Wales	
1938	15.2	15.7	....	9.3	11.6
1939	14.2	15.5	....	8.8	12.1
1940	13.1	15.1	....	8.3	14.3
1941	13.0	15.7	....	19.0	11.6
1942	15.9	16.3	....	10.1	11.6
1943	15.7	17.0	....	9.3	12.1
1944	17.5	18.1	....	12.6	11.6
1945	14.9	16.5	....	11.6	11.4
1946	17.2	19.6	....	10.7	11.5
1947	14.9	21.0	....	11.5	12.0
1948	15.4	18.3	....	10.9	10.8
1949	15.8	16.7	....	10.0	11.7
1950	15.6	15.8	....	10.47	11.6
1951	14.2	15.5	....	10.43	12.5
1952	13.8	15.3	....	17.05	11.3
1953	13.7	15.5	....	19.9	11.4
1954	15.58	15.2	....	20.02	11.3
1955	16.4	15.0	....	17.89	11.7
1956	15.2	15.7	....	12.0	11.7
1957	16.3	16.1	....	10.1	11.5

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

				Castle Ward		England & Wales
1943	..	..	..	28.5	....	49
1944	..	..	..	41.8	....	46
1945	..	..	..	50.9	....	46
1946	..	..	..	43.0	....	43
1947	..	..	..	41.0	....	41
1948	..	..	..	26.3	....	34
1949	..	..	..	13.4	....	32
1950	..	..	..	13.4	....	29.8
1951	..	..	..	19.2	....	29.6
1952	..	..	..	55.0	....	27.6
1953	..	..	..	51.3	....	25.5
1954	..	..	..	27.1	....	25.5
1955	..	..	..	28.6	....	24.9
1956	..	..	..	15.0	....	23.8
1957	..	..	..	20.4	....	23.0

INFANT MORTALITY, 1957.

Congenital Malformations	7 months, 9 months, 1 week
Prematurity	.. .. 1 day, 11 hours
Haemolytic disease	.. 1 day

**PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES**

The table on page 16 gives the number and age groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICES

	Positive	Negative
Throat Swabs for Diphtheria	—	4
Throat Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci ..	1	7
Specimens of Sputum for Tuberculosis ..	4	—
Gastric aspiration for Inoculation (Tuberculosis)	—	—
Urine for Pus Cells and Culture	—	—
Stool specimens for Dysentery	2	22
Stool specimens for other purposes	4	—
Nasal swabs for Pertussis	—	—
	11	33
TOTAL ..	44	

FOOD POISONING RETURN, 1957.

OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS :

Total Outbreaks ..	Nil	Total Cases..	..	Nil
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OUTBREAKS DUE TO :

(a) Chemical Poisons	Nil
(b) Salmonella Organisms	Nil
(c) Staphylococci (Including Toxin)	Nil
(d) Cl. botulinum .. ..	..	..	..	Nil
(e) Other bacteria	Nil

OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE :

Total Outbreaks ..	Nil	Total Cases..	..	Nil
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SINGLE CASES	2
Agent Identified	2
(1 M. Salmonella Typhimurium)				
(1 M. Salmonella Typhimurium)				

NUMBER OF DEATHS ..	Nil
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FOOD INVOLVED	Nil
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NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE YEARLY RETURN, 1957

DISEASE	0-1		1-		3-		5-		10-		15-		25 and Over		Age unknown		Total		Hosp-ital	Deaths
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	8	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	13	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	5	6	38	28	44	59	98	76	2	7	—	1	2	—	1	2	190	179	—	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	0-		5-		15-		45-		65 and Over		Age unknown		Total		Deaths	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Acute Pneumonia ..	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	—	5	3	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	12	3	—	—
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Enc. Lethargica ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—
Enteric & Typhoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS - AGE GROUPS

Age Periods	New cases notified as occurring in the Rural District during 1957			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	1
5—15	1	—	—	—
15—25	1	1	—	—
25—35	—	2	—	—
35—45	—	—	1	—
45—55	—	—	—	1
55—65	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—
	2 3		1 2	
	5		3	
	8			

STATEMENT OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS 1957

	No. of cases on Register at commencement of Quarter.		New Notifications		Inward Transfers		Number of cases removed from Register		Number of cases remaining	
	Pul-monary	Non-Pul.	Pul-monary	Non-Pul.	Pul-monary	Non-Pul.	Pul-monary	Non-Pul.	Pul-monary	Non-Pul.
March 31st, 1957—										
Males	59	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	61	8
Females	59	15	2	2	2	—	1	—	62	17
June 30th, 1957—										
Males	61	8	—	—	2	—	—	—	63	8
Females	62	17	1	—	1	—	1	1	63	16
September 30th, 1957										
Males	63	8	—	—	1	—	—	—	64	8
Females	63	16	—	—	3	—	—	—	66	16
December 31st, 1957										
Males	64	8	—	1	1	—	2	—	63	9
Females	66	16	—	—	1	—	—	—	67	16

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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The numerous and varying duties with which the Public Health Department has to deal have continued during the past twelve months. Progress has still been maintained in dealing with houses under the Housing Act 1936 and Housing Act 1957, which came into force on the 31st July of this year, even though work has increased in other fields. The extent to which work in dealing with insanitary property has progressed is portrayed by the knowledge that only 7 houses now remain where action is still to be taken as a result of the general housing survey made in 1951.

A detailed account of the work involved will be found under the respective headings.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, the Local Authority is responsible for the hygienic handling of milk by retailers of whom there are sixteen operating in the district.

REGISTERED DAIRYMEN :

Mr. J. H. Brown, Ivy House, Kenton Bank Foot.
Mr. J. Hudspeth, North Brunton Dairy Farm, Gosforth.
Cramlington and District Co-operative Society Ltd.
Mr. H. Thompson, " Kenmore," Dinnington Village.
Mr. F. H. Rowlinson, Middle Brunton East Farm, Gosforth.
Mr. J. Moorhouse, Newbiggin Hall Farm, Newbiggin, Westerhope.
Mr. J. H. Hopper (Tynedale Bakeries), 413, Chillingham Road, Newcastle 6.
Messrs. W. & J. Pearson, Grey Street, Brunswick Village.
Mr. J. A. Heron, Woodside, Darras Hall.
Newcastle upon Tyne Co-operative Society Ltd.
Throckley and District Co-operative Society Ltd.
Stephenson Dairies (Ponteland Depot), 38, Creighton Avenue, Kenton, Newcastle.
Mr. E. D. Coltman, 65, Silver Lonnen, Newcastle upon Tyne, 5.
Messrs. J. T. and R. Graham, Wylam Hills Farm, Wylam.
Mr. R. Henry, Wood End, Brunton Bridge.
Mr. H. J. Farquhar, 10, Queensway, Brunton Park.

Co-operation is maintained with the County Milk Production Officer to whom methylene blue results of milk samples from Producers and Producer-Retailers are forwarded.

Forty-eight samples of milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory during the year for the methylene blue test. Thirty-six of these, being ungraded milk samples, were also subjected to the biological examination, of which one proved positive to tubercle bacilli. In accordance with normal procedure this was immediately reported to the Chief Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

During the year 3 dairy farms changed over from the production of Undesignated milk and were licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk. One farmer was newly registered, as an undesignated Milk Producer. This brings the total number of designated producers of milk in the district to 58 leaving a total of 38 dairy farms producing undesignated milk. During the year 4 dairy farms producing undesignated milk terminated registration.

Notice has been received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that it is their intention to include the following districts to form one designated area under The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) Order 1958 to be laid before Parliament namely :—

The Borough of Morpeth.

The Urban districts of Alnwick, Amble, Ashington, Bedlingtonshire and Newbiggin-by-the-Sea.

The Rural Districts of Alnwick, Castle Ward, Morpeth and Rothbury.

This area is one of ten additional areas in England and Wales to be specified in which all milk sold by retail must be " specially designated " milk, that is pasteurised, sterilised or Tuberculin Tested Milk.

During the year only one complaint in connection with the retailing of milk was received and this concerned a dirty milk bottle. Appropriate action was taken with satisfactory result.

(b) FOOD PREMISES

The following are the types of food premises in the district :—

Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	11
Cafes	..	..	..	..	..	9
Canteens (Industrial)	..	..	..	..	..	7
Hospital Kitchens	..	..	..	..	..	10
School Kitchens	..	..	..	..	..	13
Clubs	..	..	..	..	..	5
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	2 (Including 1 mobile)
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	..	23
General Dealers (including Grocers and Green Grocers)	..	..	..	..	..	38

Of the above premises forty-one are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, as follows :—

Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream	..	1
Sale of pre-packed Ice Cream	..	30
Manufacture of sausage and preserved meats	..	10

SAMPLING OF FOOD

This work is undertaken by the County Council under the direction of Mr. Arlidge, Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department to whom I am obliged for the following Report :—

During the year ended 31st December, 1957, the County Sampling Officers procured a total of 81 samples in Castle Ward Rural District. The articles sampled were as follows :—

	No. Unsatis- taken factory.		No. Unsatis- taken factory
Aspirin Tablets	1	Minced Steak	1
Bath Chaps	1	Non-Alcoholic Ginger	1
Beef Sausages	2	Olive Oil	1
Beefsteak Casserole ..	1	Orange Drink	1
Black Pudding	1	Orange Curacas	1
Boned Kippers	1	Orange Fruitie	1
Butter	1	Orange Jelly Marmar-	
Cheese Spread with		lade	1
Pineapple	1	Orange Juice	1
Chicken Pie	1	Orange Shortcake	
Coffee Essence	1	Biscuits	1
Cream of Chicken Soup	1	Pineapple Chunks ..	1
Cream Mints	1	Pineapple Juice ..	1
Dairy Ice Cream	1	Pork Sausages	1
Danish Butter	2	Prunes	1
Drinking Chocolate ..	1	Salmon Spread	1
Fullers Earth	1	Smoked Salmon Mayon-	
Gingerbread Mix	1	naise	1
Gooseberries in Syrup ..	1	Sparkling Lime	1
Ice Cream	1	Stewed Steak	1
Jam Sandwich Cake ..	1		
Lard	1	Summer County Marg-	
Margarine	2	arine	1
Menthol & Eucalyptus		Vitamin C Rosehip	
Tablets	1	Syrup	2
Milk	34	Whisky.. ..	1

The only irregularity detected concerned the description " Pine-apple Chunks " applied to some boiled sugar confectionery. The Public Analyst was of the opinion that the term was misleading as the article contained no ingredients obtained from pineapple. As a result of representations made to the manufacturers, it was agreed to amend the description.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955.

The regular inspection of food premises continued under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. Altogether some 396 inspections were made, informal negotiations with the persons concerned has resulted in several of these premises being brought up to standard to conform with the requirements of the Regulations.

The predominant feature of these Regulations is the requirement of clean hands when working with open food. In order that this may be achieved, wash hand basins (separate from other washing facilities for the purpose of utensils) must be provided and so placed to be readily accessible to the sanitary accommodation and work room.

In this connection one establishment in the district which is open to the public on some twelve or more occasions throughout the year and who cater on those occasions for thousands of people at a time completed a full reorganisation of their catering facilities included in which were all the provisions required by the above regulations.

Two contraventions of the Byelaws with respect to food handling were remedied immediately after interviewing the persons concerned.

(c) DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

1. Meat and Offal—Weekly, or bi-weekly if necessary, collection at Slaughterhouses by a firm of Glue and Chemical Manufacturers. The amount received for the sale of this meat and offal amounted to £69 8s.
2. Other Foods— Incineration at the Council's refuse disposal points.

(d) ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947

There is one manufacturer of ice cream in the district whose operational period is usually confined to the summer season.

During the year 20 samples of ice cream were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination with the following results :—

Grade I	.....	17
Grade II	.....	1
Grade III	.....	1
Grade IV	.....	1

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

There are six licensed Slaughterhouses within the district :—

1. Mr. J. Anderson, North Grange Farm, Ponteland.
2. Mr. T. Bewick, Diamond Inn, Ponteland.
3. Messrs. N. Wilson & Sons, West View, Stamfordham.
4. Mr. E. Lumley, Bridge End, Stamfordham.
5. Cramlington Co-operative Society Ltd., Brunswick Village Branch.
6. Mr. J. Ball, 4, Darrell Street, Brunswick Village.

A regular inspection of both carcasses and offal of all animals slaughtered within the district is made. This necessitates daily inspection of all carcasses of food animals. Where possible ante-mortem inspection of animals is made and in particular those animals which are sent into the slaughterhouse as casualties.

NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Normal Kill	1,440	277	374	4,269	2,793	9,153
Casualties	23	38	10	253	22	346
Number Examined	14,63	315	384	4,522	2,815	9,499
CARCASES CONDEMNED WHOLLY OR IN PART						
A. All Diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	14(2)	30(4)	17(4)	119 (84)	11(5)	191(99)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	501	112	2	56	499	0711
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci ..	35.2%	45.1%	4.9%	3.9%	18.1%	14.3%
B. Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	8(1)	14	—	—	1	23(1)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	51	21	—	—	91	163
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4.0%	11.1%			3.3%	2.0%
C. Cysticercosis						
Whole carcasses condemned ..	—					—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1					1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Cysticerci	0.07%					

The numbers of casualties are shown in brackets and are included in the total.

One cannot over emphasise the importance of the inspection of all carcasses intended for human consumption, as a precautionary measure towards safeguarding the health of the general public. A perusal of the following table illustrates this maxim :—

DETAILS OF MEAT AND OTHER ORGANS CONDEMNED, SURRENDERED AND DISPOSED OF.

FOR TUBERCULOSIS

Bovine

					Pigs				
Lungs	..	..	..	55	Lungs	..	..	..	3
Heads and Tongues	..	..	..	32	Heads	..	..	..	90
Livers	..	..	..	11	Plucks	..	..	..	1
Skirts	..	..	..	1	Carcases (Casualty)	..	..	..	1
Kidneys	..	..	..	4				(15½ stones)	
Carcases (Inc. 8 casualties)				23					
(Total weight 623 stones)									

FOR OTHER DEFINED DISEASES

Bovine.

Heads and Tongues	..	..	..	10	—Actinomycosis 6, Abscesses 1, Meningitis 1, Cysticercus Bovis, 1, Oedema 1.
Lungs	..	..	..	101	—Emphysema 17, Pleurisy 16, Parasites 23, Pneumonia 30, Ill-bleeding 6, Abscesses 8, Multiple Cysts 1.
Livers	Whole 282)			538	—Cirrhosis 238, Abscesses 23, Telangiectosis 16, Fatty Degeneration 5, Cirrhosis 255, Abscesses 1.
	Part 256)				
Hearts	..	..	..	3	—Abscesses 3.
Skirts	..	..	..	4	—Abscesses 3, Pleurisy 1.
Kidneys	..	..	..	29	—Nephritis 15, Retention Cysts 9, Haemorrhages 1, Hypertrophy 2, Pyelonephritis 2.
Fat (lbs.)	..	..	..	18	—Fat necrosis 10, Abscesses 8.
Beef (stones)	..	..	..	240	—Traumatism 149, Bruising and Cedema 70, Acute Pleurisy 11, Arthritis 8, Gangrene 2.
Carcases (including 18 casualties)				40	—Emaciation & Oedema 12, Johnes Disease 3, Septic Mastitis 1, Pathological Emaciation 2, Septicæmia 3, Gangrene 1, Pyrexia 9, Pleurisy & Peritonitis 1, Gangrenous Pericarditis 2, Arthritis 1, Jaundice 1, Septic Pneumonia 3, Septic Metritis 1.
(Total Weight 871 stones)					

Sheep.

Plucks	..	..	..	10	—Cirrhosis 3, Ill-Bleeding 5, Pneumonia 2.
Livers	..	..	..	38	—Parasites 4, Fatty Infiltration 33, ill-bleeding 1.
Kidneys	..	..	..	3	—Hydronephrosis 1, Cysts 2.
Mutton (lbs.)	..	..	..	216	—Bruising 52, Traumatism 54, Oedema 95, Abscesses 6, Arthritis 9.

Carcases (including 80
casualties)
(Total Weight 405 stones)

115—Oedema & Emaciation 58, Pathological Emaciation 7, Septic Pneumonia 13, Pneumonia and Pyrexia 7, Septic Pleurisy 7, Septic Mastitis 3, Immaturity 4, Gangrene 1, Pyrexia 1, Jaundice 2, Arthritis 3, Moribund Carcases 2, Uraemia 1, Septicaemia 1, Ill-bleeding 5.

Pigs

Heads	1—Abscesses 1.
Plucks	47—Pericarditis 20, Pleurisy 3, Pneumonia 22, Ill-bleeding 2.
Lungs	392—Lobar Pneumonia 381, Pleurisy 9, Parasites 2.
Livers	64—Parasites 61, Peritonitis 2, Ill-bleeding 1.
Hearts	1—Verrucose Endocarditis 1.
Kidneys	12—Retention Cysts 2, Nephritis 8, Hydronephrosis 2.
Fat (lbs.)	22—Urticaria 22.
Pork (lbs.)	293—Traumatism 80, Bruising 13, Oedema 200.
Carcases (including 7 casualties) (Total weight 49½ stones)	10—Oedema 5, Pyrexia 3, Jaundice 1, Ill-bleeding 1.

Calves

Carcases (including 8 Casualties) (Total weight 72 stones)	17—Umbilical Pyaemia 3, Septic Pneumonia 2, Pyrexia 1, Immaturity 6, Ill-bleeding 1, Generalised Oedema 3, Still-born 1.
--	--

The number of animals slaughtered during the year has increased by :—

Cattle (excluding cows)	.. .. .	13.5%
Cows .. .. .	.. .. .	36.5%
Calves .. .. .	.. .. .	27.6%
Sheep and Lambs	.. .. .	19.72%
Pigs .. .. .	.. .. .	126.3%
Total .. .. .	.. .. .	43.2%

The large increase in the number of pigs slaughtered is exceptional and was due to the temporary use of the slaughterhouse at North Grange by a firm from outside the district whilst awaiting the licensing of new premises.

NUMBER OF FOOD ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED IN PAST 4 YEARS.

	1954	1955	1956	1957
Cattle (excluding Cows)	663	857	1,266	1,463
Cows	145	141	200	315
Calves	108	33	278	384
Sheep and Lambs	2,239	2,517	3,630	4,522
Pigs	470	886	1,235	2,815
TOTAL	3,625	4,434	6,609	9,499

BYELAWS FOR PRIVATE SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The provisions of the Byelaws continued to be observed and due attention was given to the maintenance of the requirements thereof. During the year 4 contraventions were dealt with by informal action.

ANTHRAX ORDER, 1938.

This order is operated by the County Constabulary and during the year no notification was received by them under the above-mentioned Order.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.

No case of foot and mouth disease was reported during the year within the district nor did any part of the district come within the fifteen mile radius of any other reported outbreak.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(THE REMOVAL OF HOUSEHOLD AND TRADE REFUSE)

The estimated area of the district is calculated to be approximately 130 square miles and consists of 13 Parishes. Throughout the whole of this area the refuse collection service operates.

For the purpose of administration and control, the district is divided into five sectors. One refuse collecting vehicle with Chargeman, Driver and Loader(s) is allocated to each sector. The Chargeman is responsible for his sector and takes instruction direct from the office ; there is no general foreman.

In the built-up areas of the district a weekly collection of refuse is made and in the remainder of the district the collection is, in general, every fortnight, although hospitals, institutions and some villages are serviced weekly. It will be appreciated, however, that due to the rapid development on the estates of Melton Park, Brunton Park and Darras Hall, and as the work in the building of 3,000 Council houses at Newbiggin Hall (Newcastle Corporation over-spill) commences, it will be necessary to increase the size of the Cleansing Service. It is therefore envisaged that during the financial year commencing 1st April, 1959, an additional cleansing vehicle and crew will be required.

There is also a septic tank emptying service which operates throughout the district. No charge is made for this work. During 1957 85 septic tanks were emptied. The machinery used consists of a 6 cwt. portable pump and a 250 gallon sludge trailer. There continues to be an increasing demand for this service.

VEHICLES

The following are the types and capacities of the refuse collecting vehicles operating in the district :—

Thorneycroft	1943	9 cub. yds. (cap.)	side loader
Thorneycroft	1948	12	" " " "
Bantam Karrier	1949	7	" " " "
Bantam Karrier	1949	7	" " " "
Bantam Karrier	1950	7	" " " "
Bantam Karrier	1953	7	" " " "
Shelvoke & Drewry	1955	18	" Rear Loader (Fore & Aft Tipper) Diesel Engine.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Points of disposal in the district are as follows :—

1. Brickyard Quarry, Ponteland.
2. Shotton Edge Quarry.
3. Stannington Quarry.
4. Belsay (Two Quarries).
5. Stobhill (Cheeseburn Grange).
6. Whalton.
7. Heddon-on-the-Wall.
8. Mill Hill, Dinnington.
9. Disused Sewage Works at Woolsington.

To employ a system of controlled tipping on the eight points of disposal in the district would considerably increase the present cost of the Cleansing Service, but the time is approaching when at least for one disposal point (Ponteland Brick Yard Site) this method will need adopting. To assist in this work it will be necessary to purchase some mechanical earth moving equipment. Having regard to the distances involved between the eight sites, the acquisition of a mule-dozer would be the most economical way of dealing with this problem.

CLEANSING COST FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1958.

Estimated quantity of refuse removed	..	..	..	8,963 tons
Approximate average weight per house per annum	..	..	..	1.57 tons
Average quantity per house per annum	..	..	..	5.1 cu. yds.
Average per 1,000 population per day (365 days)	..	..	..	26 cwts.
Total cost of collection and disposal (Refuse and Salvage)	£14,020	10	4	
Less Income from Salvage and Trade Refuse	..	..	..	£980 2 6
Nett Cleansing Cost	..	..	..	£13,040 7 10
Cost per house	..	..	..	£2 4 5
Cost per head of population	..	..	..	15 0
Cost on rates in the £.	..	..	..	1 0 $\frac{3}{4}$

SALVAGE.

Once more the collection and sale of salvage provided a useful source of income during the year. Due to delay in the completion of new board-making machinery at Thames Board Mills, with whom the Council have a contract for the sale of waste paper, further restrictions were placed upon the quantities of paper the Council were allowed to despatch. This, together with a fall in the quantities of scrap metals available for collection, has resulted in a decrease in the salvage income as compared with 1956. There are indications, however, that these restrictions will ease, and quantities despatched should soon go back to normal. Thames Board Mills guaranteed minimum prices for a further period, although the actual prices paid are considerably greater than this minimum at present.

Rags and scrap metal are sold as they accumulate to local dealers at the best prices currently obtainable.

Details of Salvage disposed of :—

				Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	..	..	..	93	19	2	833	12	10
Rags	..	..	..	2	11	1	60	7	0
Scrap Metal	..	..	..	4	18	3	56	7	2
				101	9	2	£950	7	0

WATER

A Public Enquiry was held in Newcastle on the 25th October, 1949 to consider the application by Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company for the extension of their water mains throughout the Rural District. This was approved and the application granted when the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Order 1950 came into operation on the 31st July, 1950.

Up to the inauguration of this scheme it was considered that approximately two thirds only of the population were served by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. The remainder spread over the western part of the district relied in most cases on their own resources, e.g., wells, springs and in a few cases, boreholes.

It is therefore encouraging after a period of approximately seven years to record that in the early part of this year the sixth and final phase of the scheme was completed. In this achievement it should be felt that a great gap in the field of environmental hygiene has been bridged.

The following presents a full picture of the progress of the water scheme during its implementation. This year sees the completion of the scheme. The information given has been supplied by Mr. G. Edgar-Dimmack, M.I.MUN., E., Engineer and Surveyor to the Council :—

Phase I.

Extension of existing water main at Stannington Village to Clifton, a branch being taken off to serve the districts of Duddo Hill and Well Hill (includes the Sanatorium). Extension of main at Smallburn, Ponteland, to Thorneyford, a branch is taken from this main at Kirkley South Lodge to Kirkley March.

Phase II.

North Moor (Stannington) to Clifton on the main North Road, branch taken to a point in the vicinity of Dovecote House.

Limestone Lane on the Belsay Road to Milbourne Road End north of Waggon Inn, an extension from Brickyard, Ponteland, terminating for the present near Eastfield Farm House. Extension from Park House to Berwick Hill, and a branch of the Thorneyford main to supply South Carter Moor.

Commencement of installations of pumping units at the Whittle Dene Water Works, and service reservoir at Harlow Hill.

Phase III.

Completion of pumping units at the Whittle Dene Water Works and the service reservoir at Harlow Hill. Laying of mains via Dalton, Windy Walls to supply Hawkwell and Stamfordham, and from Harlow Hill to Whitchester to Heddon Whitchester via Loudside Leager House, Dissington Lane House to Callerton Lane End Branch from Eachwick Road End via Penny Hill. Harlow Hill via Dodley, Kiln House to Hawkwell.

Prior to March, 1951, the Council supplied water to the communities of Heddon-on-the-Wall, Kirkheaton, Stamfordham and Whalton. On April 1st, 1951, the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company in pursuance of Part III, Section 10, of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Order, 1950, took over the Council's water works and all pipes connected thereto which supplied the above communities.

Phase IV.

This phase of the water supply scheme commenced in January, 1954, and was substantially completed by the end of the year. Mains were laid as follows :—

Field House to Dalton Hill Head and South to Dalton Road Ends.
Stamfordham to Heatherslaw.

Heugh to Robsheugh with branch to Huntlaw.

Robsheugh to Milbourne and branch to South East Farm.

Milbourne Village to Belsay with branches from Highlander Inn to Worlds End and Middle Newham, and from Red House to Ogle Hill Head.

Redhouse to Whalton via North Trewick.

Whalton to Ogle, with branches to Ogle Mill and Ogle Castle.

Ogle to Kirkley March.

Whalton Manor to Shilvington with branches to Cock Hill Farm and West Houses.

Shilvington to Twizell Cottage and Twizell Farm.

Twizell Cottage to Saltwick.

Whalton Water Supply Tank to Whalton Hill Head.

The Moot Law Reservoir and the Matfen Pumping Station were completed, except for the installation of pumping plant in the latter.

Phase V.

Approximately 70 per cent of the main laying work comprised in Phase V was completed by the 31st December, 1955. Details of the lengths laid are as follows :—

Berwick Hill to Brenkley.

New Horton Grange to Make'em Rich.

Stamfordham to Fenwick.

Kiln House, Ouston via Butcher Hill, Matfen, and
Ryal to Mootlaw Reservoir.

Wallhouses and East Wallhouses via Moorhouse and Standing
Stone to Matfen.

Moorhouse to High House.

Matfen to Dewlaw.

The balance of this Phase was completed during the early part of 1956, the lengths of main laid being :—

Mootlaw via Toft Hill to Sandybraes with branches to Kirkheaton and Ingoe.

Phase VI (Final).

With only two short lengths of main remaining to be laid, the whole of the water supply scheme was virtually completed by the 31st December, 1956.

The two lengths outstanding were those from New Houses, Capheaton to Clock Mill at the Rural District Boundary, and from Brenkley to the Great North Road.

The lengths of main laid during 1956 were as follows :—

Sandybraes via Make me rich to Capheaton.

Sandybraes via White House and Frolic to Capheaton.

Linup Hill to Wallridge.

Wallridge to Black Heddon

Black Heddon to West Belsay.

Wallridge via Belsay Barns and Kirkheaton.

Colliery to Make me rich with branches to Belsay Dene House and
road junction near Toft Hall.

Capheaton to New Houses.

Make me rich via Hill Head, Sandyford and Low House to Bolam
with branch to West Shaftoe.

Low House to Middle Part.

Sandyford to Harnham.

South Farm, Houghton to Hill Head.

Branch Main to Startup Farm, Twizell.

The pumping plant at Matfen Pumping Station came into operation in July, 1956.

During 1957 the two lengths laid to complete the scheme were those from New Houses, Capheaton to Clock Mill and from Brenkley to the Great North Road.

PRIVATELY OWNED WATER SUPPLIES

There are four such water supplies still functioning and serve part of the Parishes of Belsay Ward 2, Capheaton Ward 2, Matfen Ward 1 and Stannington Ward 2. The source of supply in three instances is from springs, the fourth being a borehole.

WATER SAMPLES TAKEN DURING THE YEAR **CHEMICAL ANALYSIS AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION**

During the year 32 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for Bacteriological Examination.

Date and Premises	Type of Supply	Samples taken from	Number of Coli-form Bacilli Mac-Conkey 2 days 37 deg. C per 100 Ml.
9/1/57 East Shaftoe	Spring	Spring	1 per 100 ml.
9/1/57 East Shaftoe	Well	House pump (Tap)	Nil.
14/1/57 Bridge End, Stamfordham	Well	Pump in common yard	50 per 100 ml.
5/2/57 North Fens, Fenwick	Spring	Tap in wash-house	Nil.
11/2/57 Bridge End, Stamfordham	Well	Pump in common yard	180+ per 100 ml.
8/4/57 Bridge End, Stamfordham	Well	" " "	1 per 100 ml.
2/5/57 Bridge End, Stamfordham	Well	" " "	17 per 100 ml.
8/5/57 Bridge End, Stamfordham	Well	" " "	180+ per 100 ml.
3/6/57 118 Middle Drive, Darras Hall	N/cle and Gateshead	Kitchen Tap	Nil.
17/6/57 Bridge End, Stamfordham	Well	Pump in common yard	1 per 100 ml.
25/6/57 2, Ash Ave., Dinnington	N/cle and Gateshead	Tap	Nil.
1/7/57 Bridge End, Stamfordham	Well	Pump in common yard	90 per 100 ml.
1/7/57 Heugh Smallholding	Well	Tap in kitchen	5 per 100 ml.
2/7/57 Ingoe Village	Spring	Pipe from Spring	Nil.
2/7/57 Ingoe Village	Spring	Tap to storage tank	25 per 100 ml.
2/7/57 Sandyway Heads	Well	Direct from well	180+ per 100 ml.

Date and Premises	Type of Supply	Samples taken from	Number of Coli-form Bacilli Mac-Conkey 2 days 37 deg.C per 100 Ml.
2/7/57 The Tilery, East Matfen	Spring	Pipe at road-side	Nil.
15/7/57 Barnhill, Capheaton	Spring	Standpipe	90 per 100 ml.
15/7/57 Capheaton Village	Spring	Standpipe	160 per 100 ml.
30/7/57 77, Kirkley Drive, Ponteland	N/cle and Gateshead	Tap	Nil.
30/7/57 17A Thornhill Road, Ponteland	N/cle and Gateshead	Tap	Nil.
1/8/57 Heugh Smallholding	Well	Tap in kitchen	5 per 100 ml.
1/8/57 Bridge End, Stamfordham	Well	Pump in yard	35 per 100 ml.
26/9/57 West Newham Farm Cot.	Spring	Tap	Nil.
19/11/57 Clockmill Cottage	Spring	Open pipe end	Nil.
19/11/57 Barnhill, Capheaton	Spring	Standpipe	8 per 100 ml.
9/12/57 Bygate Farm Cottage, Black Heddon	Borehole	Tap in kitchen	160 per 100 ml.
9/12/57 Heugh Smallholding	Well	Tap in Kitchen	3 per 100 ml.
9/12/57 Bridge End, Stamfordham	Well	Pump in yard	30 per 100 ml.
9/12/57 Bungalow, Heugh Mill	Well	Tap in Scullery	Nil.
16/12/57 Heddon Laws, East Heddon	Borehole	Tap	3 per 100 ml.
16/12/57 Mount Hope, East Heddon	Borehole	Tap	Nil.

I am indebted to Mr. S. G. Barrett, M.I.C.E., Engineer to the New-castle and Gateshead Water Company, for the following information :—

At the Company's laboratories, 1,187 samples of filtered water were examined bacteriologically resulting in 1,182 being classified 'excellent' and 5 "satisfactory."

Samples taken from the Castle Ward area were analysed with the following results :—

	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Classification</i>
Stamfordham	9	all " excellent "
Heddon-on-the-Wall	2	both " excellent "
Belsay	1	" excellent "
Whalton	1	" excellent "

The customary analyses were carried out by various authorities supplied by the Company and, out of a total number of 368 samples thus examined 360 were classified " excellent " and 5 " satisfactory." Of the 3 samples not placed in these categories an immediate check sample proved " excellent " in one case and the other two cases were both from an established point at Heaton Baths from which samples taken regularly at fortnightly intervals gave " excellent " classifications throughout the remainder of the year.

Chemical analyses were carried out bi-monthly by Messrs. J. & H. S. Pattinson, City and County Analysts, with very satisfactory results in all cases.

The following lengths of mains were laid during the year, thus completing Phase 6, the final phase of the Castle Ward Rural Supply Scheme :—

Stannington Parish 1,199 lin. yds. 4" dia. pipes
Capheaton Parish 507 " " 6" " "

Premises newly connected during the year 1957 are shown as follows :—

Stables and Harness Room, Dissington Hall
The Vicarage, Stannington.
April Cottage, Ogle.
House No. 2, Northside, Stamfordham.
Corner Cottage, Ogle.
Rose Cottage, Belsay.
Trough in field adjoining Rose Cottage, Belsay.
The Croft, Ogle.
Trough O.S. No. 14, Bk. Agricultural Cottage, Whalton.
Trough O.S. No. 89, Dalton Hillhead Farm, Dalton.
Shortflaty Tower, Bolam.
3 troughs, O.S. No. 86, Park Head Farm, Capheaton.
Bolam Hall, Bolam.
Trough, O.S. No. 26, Dalton Mill Farm, Dalton.
Trough, O.S. No. 67, Fenwick Hall, Fenwick.
Dalton Cottage, Dalton.
Trough, O.S. No. 443, Coldside, Stamfordham.
3 troughs, O.S. Nos. 34, 20 and 14, Loudside Farm, Whitchester.
Methodist Chapel, Stamfordham.
Moorhouse Farmhouse, Matfen.
2 Houses, Nicholson, adj. School, Stannington.
Cottage, adjoining School, Dalton.
House, Charlton, near East Newham Farm, Milbourne.
2 Troughs, High House Park Farm, Milbourne.
6 Houses, sites 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 and 11, Heddon Bank, Heddon-on-the-Wall.
Harrison, Poultry House, Ingoe.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

This Act imposes on a Local Authority the duty of keeping its district free from rats and mice, and for this purpose a full time rodent operator is employed. Dwelling houses are served free of charge. In other cases, i.e., business premises, farms, etc., a charge is made for the work done and under this heading the sum of £51 4s. 1d. was recovered. Methods employed in rodent destruction are those recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and close co-operation is maintained with both the Divisional Rodent Officer of the Ministry and the Rodent Officer of the County Agricultural Committee.

	Type of Property				Total
	Non-Agricultural			Agri-cultural	
	Refuse Tips & Sewage Works	Dwell- ing houses	All others (incl. business prem- ises)		
No. of Properties in District . .	28	5,389	231	487	6,135
No. of Properties inspected . .	28	169	61	215	473
Total Inspections Including Re-inspections	99	239	101	279	718
No. of Properties found to be infested and treated by Local Authority :					
(a) Rats	12	60	5	11	88
(b) Mice	—	42	9	—	51
Total treatments carried out incl. re-treatments	23	118	20	14	175
No. of Block Control Schemes carried out	—	2	1	—	3

MAY, 1957				NOVEMBER, 1957			
System or Section of System	No. of Man-holes	No. Baited	No. of Manholes Showing Prebait Take	System or Section of System	No. of Man-holes	No. Baited	No. of Manholes Showing Prebait Take
Kirkheaton	6	6	Nil	Dinnington Village	55	14	Nil
Capheaton	10	10	3	Brunswick Village	59	17	Nil
Whalton	17	17	4	Hazlerigg	34	15	Nil
Stannington	8	8	3	Whalton	17	14	Nil
Dinning Village....	55	10	4				
Brunswick Village....	59	18	3				
Hazlerigg ..	34	10	5				
Kenton							
Bank Foot	17	8	3				
	206	87	25		165	60	Nil

HOUSING

New Houses completed during the Year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	Nil	—	Nil
(b) By any other Housing Authority	—	—	—
(c) By private persons	—	282	282

Total number of Inhabited Houses in district .. 5,872

SUB-STANDARD HOUSES. (CATEGORY 4 and 5)

Progress was maintained during the year in the examination of sub-standard houses placed in Categories 4 and 5. Formal action under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 and Section 16 Housing Act 1957 and informal action was taken on a total of 87 houses. Appended overleaf is a summary of the category 4 and 5 houses which have been dealt with and the outcome of such action.

At 31st December, 1950 after completion of the Rural District Housing Survey 322 houses were placed in category 4 and 424 houses in category 5. The position at the end of this year is that out of these figures only 7 houses in category 4 remain upon which action still has to be taken.

				Category	Category
Formal Action Under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 and Section 16 of the Housing Act 1957					
"	"	"	Demolition Orders	—	3
"	"	"	Undertakings	23	3
"	"	"	Closing Orders	—	2
"	"	"	Action Deferred	4	—
"	"	"	Action Pending	1	—
Informal Action	..	..	..	35	2
"	"	Pending	..	12	2
Total				75	12

Of the 9 category 5 houses where action was deferred in 1956, 8 Undertakings were accepted and 1 Demolition Order was made during the year under review.

HOUSING ACT 1949-52 IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The number of property owners who have taken advantage of the financial assistance offered under the above Act for the improvement of their properties increased by eleven as compared with the figure for 1956.

The average cost per house of carrying out improvement works as distinct from repairs amounted to £1,103 4s. 3d. this year.

						No. of Separate Houses
(a)	Applications submitted to Local Authority during year					37
(b)	Applications rejected					—
(c)	Applications approved					37
(In addition no further action on 1)						
(d)	Total number of applications approved in the area since inception of scheme					261

HOUSING CONSOLIDATION REGULATIONS 1925/32 REGULATION 31.

1.	No. of houses unfit for human habitation, Categories 4 and 5 ..	7
2.	No. of houses where defects were remedied by informal action	128
3.	No. of representations made to the Council with a view to :—	
	(a) serving notices requiring the execution of work ..	—
	(b) making demolition or closing orders	45
4.	No. of notices served requiring the execution of works ..	Nil
5.	No. of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices ..	Nil
6.	No. of demolition or closing orders made	6
7.	No. of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-section 3 of Sec. 11 of Housing Act, 1936 ..	33
8.	No. of houses demolished	9

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

In the early part of the year a complaint was received from a neighbouring authority of atmospheric pollution in the Seaton Burn area. The source of the pollution arose from the combustion of a vast area of coal slack tipped some considerable time ago at the Big Waters Brunswick Village. The National Coal Board upon a report from the Public Health Department acted almost immediately, with pumping equipment and at the same time made a deep cut with a bulldozer through the slack, flooding it, to prevent any further spread of fire, thus abating the nuisance.

An atmospheric deposit gauge sited in Brunswick Village is attended to each month, the Public Analyst providing a monthly statement of the extent of the atmospheric pollution. This provides a useful yardstick in comparing the results with those obtained in the surrounding districts. As can be expected this district as a whole has no problem in connection with atmospheric pollution when compared with the City and industrial areas which adjoin its boundaries.

BUILDING BYELAWS—PART IVa—SMOKE PREVENTION

The above byelaw adopted by this Council came into operation on 1st October this year which makes it obligatory to install in a new building heating and cooking appliances which are suitably designed for burning any of the following fuels :—

- (a) Gas
- (b) Electricity
- (c) Coke or Anthracite

Exception is made in the case of furnaces to which Section 3 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, applies

The Coal Utilisation Council, 18, Saville Row, Newcastle upon Tyne, under the control of the Regional Officer, Mr. J. Barratt, arranged a two-day course for Public Health Inspectors, which was held three times during the year. Full advantage was taken of the valuable training and guidance available through this course. The syllabus included :—

Solid Fuels, types and characterisations, behaviour in domestic appliances and the principles, designs and construction of the various approved appliances for the burning of smokeless fuels acceptable under the Clean Air Act, 1956.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, SECTION 269.

There are four caravan sites in the district accommodating 30 Caravans and various separately sited vehicles. All have Town and Country Planning approval and in addition each caravan is individually licensed under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936. During the year 38 caravans were licensed. All are modern proprietary vehicles with adequate facilities.

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.

There have been twenty-three disinfections of dwelling houses after infectious disease.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Eleven houses were treated as follows :—

Infestation of Moths	..	..	1
Bluebottles	..	..	1
Insects	..	..	5
Beetles	..	..	4
			—
			11
			—

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Two cases were reported where a stream was creating a nuisance through pollution and after representation to the offending parties the situation was satisfactorily remedied.

FACTORIES ACT.

There are 59 factories in the district. The following tables show the number of inspections and defects found during the period under review:—

Inspections

PREMISES	Number on Register	NUMBER OF		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	15	61	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	44	53	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers Premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	59	114	—	—

Defects Found

	Number of Cases in which Defects were Found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of cases Prosecutions instituted
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of Cleanliness ..	8	8	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	7	7	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including Offences relating to Outwork) ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	15	15	—	—	—

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The report under this heading has been provided by the Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. G. Edgar-Dimmack, M.I.MUN., E.

(a) The sixteen sewage disposal works owned and operated by the Council as at 31st December, 1957, are as follows :—

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| (1) Heddon-on-the-Wall | (8) Stamfordham |
| (2) Stannington (2 works) | (9) Whalton |
| (3) Wallridge | (10) Capheaton |
| (4) Darras Hall Estate | (11) Ogle |
| (5) Kirkheaton | (12) Belsay |
| (6) Ponteland (2 works) | (13) Kenton Bank Foot |
| (7) Ridge Estate | (14) Berwick Hill. |

(b) Ponteland, Darras Hall and Woolsington Main Drainage Scheme

By the 31st December, 1957, the Contractor, Messrs. Harbour & General Works Limited, had completed Phases I and I I I of Contract No. 1, whilst Phase II was 82½% complete.

The total value of the work done since the commencement of the scheme, including increased costs of labour and materials was approximately £534,000. The value of the work done during the year was £266,000, details of which are as follows :—

(i) Phase I.

This phase was virtually completed at the end of 1956 and only minor finishing works have had to be carried out during the year.

(ii) Phase II.

Lengths of foul sewer have been laid in the North Road, Ponteland, Woolsington Park, a length of sewer from Brunton Bridge to Kenton Bank Foot, a connection to the Burn Close sewer and a length from Woolsington Bridge to Campbell's Garage. A surface water sewer has been laid from the Ridge Estate, Ponteland, discharging to Prestwick Carr.

The flow recorder house at Brunton Bridge was completed during the year and work has continued on the construction of the new pumping station at Midge Lane, Ponteland, together with an extension to house the diesel alternator.

In view of the fact that the flow of sewage to the Woolsington Disposal Works has been diverted through the new main to the Ouseburn Sewer, these works became redundant, and in order that the land can be disposed of for agricultural purposes arrangements have been made for the site to be filled with household refuse and ultimately dressed over with soil to restore the levels in relation to the adjoining field.

(iii) Phase III.

Foul and surface water sewers have been laid in the southern portion of Western Way, The Rise, Woodside, Whinfell Road, Eastern Way, Edge Hill and High Callerton.

A surface water drain has been laid across West Road, Ponteland, discharging to the river Pont.

(c) Discharge of Sewage to Neighbouring Authorities.

- (i) At the 31st December, 1957, a total of 712 houses on the Brunton Park and Melton Park Estates were discharging sewage to the Gosforth Urban District Council's sewerage system at the Three Mile Bridge under an agreement that exists with that Local Authority. Of this total 79 connections were made during the year. This sewage which was formerly pumped by Gosforth U.D.C., is now conducted by gravity main to the new Ouseburn Sewer.
- (ii) A portion of Brunton Park Estate could not be drained to the Gosforth U.D.C. Sewer and by agreement with Newcastle Corporation the foul sewage from this area is discharged in the new Ouseburn Sewer. By the end of the year 389 dwellings were being drained in this manner, an increase of 109 connections over the total at the end of 1956.
- (iii) Under an agreement with the Seaton Valley Joint Sewerage Board a total of 1,129 premises in Dinnington, Hazlerigg and Brunswick Village were being drained to the Longbenton U.D.C. Sewer at Seaton Burn School as at the 31st December, 1957. The whole of the sewage from Dinnington is pumped to Seaton Burn School, by means of the Dinnington East and West Pumping Stations. Two new connections were made during the year.
- (iv) Under an agreement with Newburn Urban District Council 48 properties situated close to the Throckley-Heddon-on-the-Wall Road, are drained to the head of that Local Authority's sewer near the Frenchman's Arms, Public House. No new connections were made during the year.

(d) **Brunswick Village Sewerage.**

Due to the regular occurrence of blockages in a length of foul sewer at the rear of the Post Office, Darrell Street, Brunswick Village, a thorough investigation was made and the cause of the trouble attributed to lack of gradient in this section. As a result, this length was abandoned and a new line of pipes laid from the rear of the Post Office joining the main sewerage system at a point near the Auto-Weld garage. The new sewer, which was approximately 110 yards long and included one new manhole, was laid by direct labour.

No complaints have been received since this work was completed.

(e) **Whalton Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.**

A new set of sprinkler arms has been fitted to the distributors at these disposal works at a cost of approximately £40 os. od.

PRIVATE SEWERAGE PLANT.

The sewage from the large Hospitals and Institutions in the district is treated as follows :—

- 1. St. Mary's Hospital, Stannington.
Tanks and filter beds with revolving distributors.
- 2. Children's Sanatorium and Farm Colony, Stannington.
Tanks, filters and revolving distributors.
- 3. Cottage Homes, Ponteland.
Tanks and filters with trough distribution.
- 4. Netherton Training School.
Settling tanks, percolating filter and humus tanks.

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED PRIVY CONVERSIONS.

There has been 45 conversions of privies to the water carriage system at the following places :—

- 5 Cottages, Hawkell.
- 1 Thornham Hill Farm House, Matfen.
- 1 Bridge End House, Stamfordham.
- 2 Cottages, Brewery Yard, Stamfordham.
- 2 Cottages Prestwick Hall Farm.
- 2 Cottages, Newbiggin Hall Farm.
- 1 No. 5 North Hill, Dinnington.
- 1 West Low House Whalton.
- 1 South Lodge Cottage, Dinnington.
- 2 West House Farm and Cottage, Shilvington.
- 1 Streethouses, Near Stamfordham.
- 1 Chapel Farm House, Stamfordham.
- 2 Butcher Hill Farm House.
- 1 Windy Walls Farm House, Dissington.
- 2 Bog House Farm Cottages, Matfen.
- 3 North Hill, Dinnington (3 houses connected to one unit, i.e. two privies 1 w.c.).
- 3 Eachwick Bridge Cottages, Dissington.
- 1 Carr Grange Farm Cottage.
- 1 Coldside Farm House.
- 1 Bank Top, Prestwick.
- 1 2 Church Road, Stannington.
- 1 Cottage North Side, Stamfordham.
- 1 Belle Vue, Heddon-on-the-Wall.
- 3 Cottages, Black Callerton.
- 2 Plessey North Moor Cottages.
- 1 Three Tuns Farm Cottage.
- 2 East Matfen Farm House and Cottage.

45

Of the 45 conversions, 15 were assisted under the provisions of Section 47 of the Public Health Act 1936 under which the Council paid not more than half of the reasonable cost of the work. The remaining 30 were carried out as part of the improvements of the dwelling under the Housing Acts, 1949/52.

It is interesting to record that during the last decade, 587 privies/pail closets have been converted to the water carriage system.

TABLE I.

Nuisances dealt with and work required to be done.	Verbal or written notice	Complied with
To clear choked drain or W.C.	6	6
To provide ashbins	103	103
To repair sinks or wastepipes	5	5
Defective or leaking roofs, damp walls, walls etc. . .	81	81
Defective fireplaces	33	29
„ outbuildings	64	60
„ manhole covers	2	2
„ water closets	3	3
„ sash cords and window frames	208	191
„ wallplaster	107	107
„ ceilings	220	220
„ foodstores	33	33
„ floors, stairs, handrails	22	22
„ yards and steps	71	67
„ yard walls.	43	39
„ eaves gutters and fallspouts	50	50
„ internal wood benches, doors, etc. . .	37	31
„ chimney stacks	81	81
„ external doors	158	158

TABLE II.

	By Informal Action	By Formal Action	Total
Privies and Privy ashpits abolished . .	39	6	45
„ „ „ repaired . .	—	—	—
Pail-Closets abolished	—	—	—
Water Closets provided	39	6	45
Number of above for which grant was give	39	6	45
Sanitary bins provided.	39	6	45
Drains Repaired or Reconstructed . .	35	—	35

TABLE III.

	No. of Inspections during year	No. of defects or Contra- ventions of Bye-laws	No. of Informal Notices served	Defects Remedied by Informal Action	No. of Statutory Notices Served
HOUSING—					
Structural defects	713	274	43	251	36
Defective Food Store		106	39	106	—
Dampness		146	103	137	—
Overcrowding		1	1	1	—
WATER SUPPLY—					
Insufficient	43	2	2	2	—
Unsatisfactory		7	7	—	—
DRAINAGE—					
Insufficient	194	15	15	15	—
Defective		20	20	20	—
SAN. CONVENIENCE—					
Insufficient	124	3	3	3	—
Defective		13	13	13	—
Food Premises	456	19	2	19	—
Dairies and Milk Samples	67	—	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses	678	5	—	5	—
Tents, Vans, etc.	138	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces	182	21	—	21	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles	53	9	—	9	—
Offensive accumulations	3	3	1	2	—
Smoke Nuisances	158	12	5	12	—
	2,809	656	254	616	36

CONCLUSION

I wish to place on record my thanks to Mr. J. Taylor, Mr. R. Hardy, Mr. W. Jobson, Miss D. Bell and Miss J. Elwick for their co-operation and the ready willingness with which they have carried out their duties throughout the year.

ERIC WM. STRACHAN,
Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent.

